



**1112th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
7:00PM Wednesday December 17, 2008
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California**

Annual Holiday Potluck Party

**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656
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Please join us Wednesday, December 17 for the annual Holiday potluck party. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy what is always a fun and delicious time! Note that the meeting is early this month to avoid a conflict with Christmas.

1111th meeting, The Franklin Hoard of 1853 U.S. Assay Office \$20 Gold Proofs *Elliot Wehner*

Elliot, back for the holiday from Johns Hopkins University, spoke about a hoard of proof 1853 US Assay Office \$20 gold coins. These coins, which first turned up in the 1950s, were "discovered" by Paul Franklin and marketed by John J Ford. Research by David McCarthy has proven that these proof coins are fakes as he has discovered the original coin that transfer dies were made from. Examination of the original coin and the proofs reveals numerous bag marks on the original that are transferred to each of the proofs. Elliot explained this analysis technique and discussed how these coins were originally marketed. He recently authored an article about them, published in *The Brasher*, the journal of the Society for Private and Pioneer Numismatics.

November 2008 Exhibits

The November meeting usually falls near Thanksgiving. As is tradition, members exhibit coins that are "Turkey"!

Ed led off with a title of "in praise of the turkey." He had a Washington quarter restrike of a pattern that was rejected in 1932. Also a wild turkey medal and a civil war era Washington market trading token from 1863 depicting a turkey. He also brought a complete set of Franklin half dollars. Franklin favored the turkey over the eagle as the national bird and instead his half dollar has a miniscule eagle on the reverse, somewhat resembling a turkey!

Catz brought a silver 3 cents piece from 1857, which was not a turkey but a very nice coin.

Michael brought two unlisted San Francisco tokens issued by a W Spreen with different reverses. One was good for a drink, the other for a loaf of bread. He was listed in a 1908 directory having a grocery and liquor store. Also he showed a slabbed PCNS medal (the slab being his turkey). He also brought a copy

of the most recent Brasher magazine with articles by himself and Elliot.

Ken brought a Hong Kong \$20 banknote for the Beijing Olympic Games with an engraving of the impressive Birdnest stadium on it.

Stephen exhibited a spoon from the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition. He also showed 3 bronze coins. The first was from Sarmatia which was Roman, followed by a commemorative of the death of Constantine without the typical reverse showing Constantine going to. Instead this rare coin depicted Equitas and Justice Honors the Memory. His third coin was from Cappadocia in central Turkey. It had the stone towers made from sand storms under which the ancients had carved large cities where the Troggladites lived. The coin was made in the late 2nd century showing Marcus Aurelius and was counter stamped.

Elliot showed a Turkish 5 lira note of the new type that he got in change in Istanbul.

Whalen brought an Indian Head penny bank and a set of modern Hawaiian gold colored coins.

Sandra showed a set of 12 Canadian quarters with a rather lame reverse theme on each one, i.e. harmony, love.

Federico brought a 1923 \$10,000 "turkey" banknote from Costa Rica, which he had bought as rare. At a Costa Rican campus he found the same note pasted all over the teller's window of the local bank. He also told a story about his friends setting him up with a fake note at a bar in Costa Rica.

2007/2008 Publication.

It is anticipated that the 2007/2008 collected papers will be ready to distribute at the December meeting. It is not too early to start writing for next year!

November 2008 Raffle

Ed won three times, a 1964 Bermuda silver Crown, a book called Coinage and Conflict and a Civil War centennial medallion.

Federico won a souvenir coin set from the Denver Mint, 1974. Whalen won a copy of the Krause Publications "World Coins, 2001 to date".

Available from the PCNS:



PCNS 1000th meeting medals. The set includes both a proof silver and an antiqued bronze specimen and is only \$30 plus postage and insurance. A reminder of the Society's long and venerable history.

The Old Streets of San Francisco, Early Street Names on Some Brass Tokens by

Jerry F. Schimmel. Published by the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society in 1993. 41 pages including many pictures. A must have reference for those interested in western trade tokens or San Francisco history. \$10 plus postage